Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method for ~~manipulating at least one packet~~ transparently modifying a header compression parameter included in a negotiation packet ~~for disabling header compression~~ during an establishment and configuration of a communication protocol, said method including the steps of:

substituting at least one instruction set associated with said ~~at least one~~ compression parameter ~~at a layer of a protocol stack~~ prior to a responding correspondent receiving said negotiation packet, said at least one instruction set ~~for use in establishing a~~ being used to establish said communication ~~channel~~ protocol between ~~a pair of~~ said correspondents, said method of substituting said at least one instruction set ~~further including~~ comprising the steps of:

a software module ~~at said layer of a~~ disposed between said initiating correspondent and said responding correspondent transparently intercepting ~~and examining at least one~~ said negotiation packet sent from [[an]] said initiating correspondent prior to said negotiation packet being received by said responding correspondent;

said software module ~~determining~~ examining said negotiation packet to determine whether a first instruction set associated with a first compression option type is present in the negotiation packet;

if said first instruction set is present, said software module substituting said first instruction set with a second instruction set associated with a second compression option type; and

[[at]] said software module sending a response packet to said initiating correspondent, ~~receiving~~ wherein said initiating correspondent receives said second instruction set and ~~transmitting~~ transmits subsequent packets utilizing said second compression option type to said responding correspondent in accordance with said second instruction set.

2.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one instruction set ~~for use in establishing a communication channel between said correspondents~~ includes a compression request for header compression.

3.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one instruction set ~~is used for establishing a communication channel between said correspondents~~ includes a compression reject for header compression.

4.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~least one packet header~~ compression parameter is associated with at least one compression type option for header compression.

5.   (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2, wherein said header compression is implemented by a Van Jacobson compression algorithm.

6.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said negotiation packets are intercepted before reaching [[said]] a layer of a protocol stack of said responding correspondent.

7.   (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6, wherein said layer of said protocol stack is a point-to-point protocol (PPP) layer.

8.   (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 7, wherein said ~~at least one~~ negotiation packet is a point-to point protocol (PPP) negotiation packet.

9.   (currently amended) A method for transparently disabling header compression of TCP/IP headers during an establishment and configuration of a communication protocol and communication channel between a pair of correspondents, said method including the steps of:
        an initiating correspondent transmitting PPP negotiation packets including at least one PPP compression request packet having at least one TCP/IP header compression option type, said option type associated with a first instruction set for said establishment and configuration of said communication protocol and channel;

a software module ~~coupled to~~ <u>disposed between said initiating correspondent and</u> a responding correspondent <u>transparently</u> intercepting and examining said at least one PPP compression request packet before said at least one PPP compression request packet reaches said responding correspondent's PPP layer;

said software module determining said option type included in said at least one PPP compression request packet; and

said software module substituting said first instruction set with a second instruction set to said initiating correspondent, said second instruction set having an option type rejecting said compression request transmitting subsequent data packets in accordance with said second instruction set.

10.   (previously presented) A method for disabling header compression of TCP/IP headers during an establishment and configuration of a communication protocol and communication channel between an initiating correspondent and a responding correspondent, said method including the steps of:

an initiating correspondent transmitting at least one PPP negotiation packet having at least one acceptable TCP/IP header compression option type, said option type being associated with a first instruction set for said establishment and configuration of said communication protocol and channel;

a software module coupled to said responding correspondent intercepting and examining sad at least one PPP compression request packet before said at least one PPP compression request packet reaches said responding correspondent's PPP layer;

said software module modifying said acceptable option type to an unacceptable option type and transmitting said modified PPP negotiation packet to said responding correspondent's PPP layer;

said responding correspondent's PPP layer receiving said modified PPP negotiation packet and rejecting said unacceptable option type;

said software module receiving said PPP negotiation packet having said unacceptable option type; and

said software module modifying said unacceptable option type to said acceptable type and transmitting said PPP negotiation packet to said initiating correspondent.

11.   (currently amended) A method for disabling header compression of TCP/IP headers during an establishment and configuration of a communication protocol and communication channel between an initiating correspondent and a responding correspondent, said method including the steps of:

an initiating correspondent transmitting at least one PPP negotiation packet having at least one acceptable TCP/IP header compression option type, said option type being associated with a first instruction set for said establishment and configuration of said communication protocol and channel;

a software module coupled to said initiating correspondent's PPP layer for intercepting and examining said at least one PPP compression request packet before said at least one PPP compression request packet is transmitted to said responding correspondent, said software module modifying said acceptable option type to an unacceptable option type and transmitting said modified PPP negotiation packet to said responding correspondent's PPP layer;

said responding correspondent's PPP layer receiving said modified PPP negotiation packet and rejecting said unacceptable option type;

said software module receiving said PPP negotiation packet having said unacceptable option type; and

said software module modifying said unacceptable option type to said it acceptable type and transmitting said PPP negotiation packet to said initiating correspondent's PPP layer.

12.   (currently amended) A system for ~~manipulating at least one packet~~ transparently modifying a header compression parameter included in a negotiation packet ~~for disabling header compression~~ during an establishment and configuration of a communication protocol, said ~~at least~~ parameter associated with at least one instruction set for establishing a communication channel between a pair of correspondents, the system having:

a software module disposed between said correspondents at a layer of a protocol stack included in a computer readable medium of a responding correspondent, said software module configured to transparently intercept and examine at least one negotiation packet from [[said]] an initiating correspondent prior to said negotiation packet reaching said layer, and configured to substitute ~~at least one~~ a first instruction set associated with said ~~at least one~~ compression

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parameter with a second instruction set <u>associated with a second compression parameter</u>; wherein subsequent packets to said responding correspondent <u>are</u> in accordance with said second instruction set.

13.   (original) The system of claim 12, wherein said software module is located at a point-to-point protocol (PPP) layer of said protocol stack.

14.   (original) The system of claim 12, wherein said negotiation packets are point-to-point protocol (PPP) negotiation packets.

15.   (original) The system of claim 13 and 14, wherein said PPP negotiation packets are intercepted by said software module located at said PPP layer before reaching said PPP layer.